

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A lachrymal plug that allows a blockage of the lachrymal ducts to overcome a deficiency of the lachrymal glands by decreasing or suppressing the flow of tears toward the nasal cavities, [[,]] the lachrymal plug comprising:

a substantially cylindrical body having an external lateral wall; and

flexible elements attached to the external wall structured and arranged to straighten out when positioned to maintain said lachrymal plug in position.

2. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1, wherein the flexible elements comprise radial pins.

3. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 2, wherein the pins are tilted in a direction of the nasal cavities, and

wherein the lachrymal plug cannot be displaced by a natural peristalsis of the lachrymal duct driving tears and foreign bodies inwardly.

4. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 2 wherein the pins have a constant length.

5. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 2 wherein the pins have a variable length.

6. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 5, wherein the pins have an increasing or decreasing length.

7. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 2 wherein the pins are arranged in helical formation around the body .

8. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 further comprising:

at least one flexible disk arranged to ensure impermeability.

9. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 2 wherein the flexible elements have sufficient elasticity to partially penetrate into an inner wall of the lachrymal canaliculus by straightening, to ensure that the lachrymal plug is firmly held in position.

10. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 further comprising:

an axial duct having a reduced passage for tears.

11. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the body has a cone, a double cone, or a diabolo shape.

12. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the lachrymal plug is made of metal.

13. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the lachrymal plug is made of shape memory metal.

14. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the lachrymal plug comprises a radio-opaque reference that is visible with X-rays, to facilitate marking during its progression when it is positioned.

15. (Previously presented) A method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 1 comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with a tube having a push rod, structured and arranged to allow pressing of pins against an outer wall of the cylindrical body and to release the pins once the lachrymal plug is in position.

16. (Previously presented) A method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 1 comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with an instrument provided with jaws.

17. (Previously presented) The method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 16 further comprising:

removing the lachrymal plug with the instrument provided with jaws.

18. (Previously presented) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the flexible elements are structured and arranged to collapse against the external walls to allow insertion of the lachrymal plug in the lachrymal duct and straighten when released in the lachrymal duct.

19. (Currently amended) A method of positioning a lachrymal plug, the method comprising:

positioning in a lachrymal duct a substantially cylindrical body having external lateral wall and flexible elements attached to the external wall structured and arranged to straighten out when positioned to maintain the lachrymal plug.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the flexible elements comprise radial pins.

21. (Previously presented) The method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 19 further comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with a tube having a push rod that is structured and arranged to allow pressing the pins against an outer wall of the cylindrical body and to release the pins once the lachrymal plug is in position.

22. (Previously presented) The method according claim 19 further comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with an instrument provided with jaws.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22 further comprising:

removing the lachrymal plug with the instrument provided with jaws.